

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 00831 211049Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----069754 211057Z /23  
O R 211018Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2494  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0831

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM  
SUBJECT: US-SOVIET TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

REF: STATE 67980

1. WE ARE DELIGHTED WITH THE PROSPECT OF ASSISTING IN THE  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR US-SOVIET TALKS IN HELSINKI ON CONVENTIONAL  
ARMS TRANSFERS, AND LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE  
US DELEGATION'S NEEDS SO THAT WE CAN BE AS RESPONSIVE AS  
POSSIBLE.

2. DCM AND SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER-COUNSELOR MIKHAIL N.  
STRELTSOV HELD A PRELIMINARY PLANNING MEETING MARCH 21 AT THE  
SOVIET EMBASSY, AT WHICH STRELTSOV SAID THAT HE HAD NOT  
RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION FROM MOSCOW AS YET ABOUT THE PROPOSED  
MAY 4 TALKS. (SOVIET AMBASSADOR STEPANOV IS OUT OF HELSINKI  
SO STRELTSOV COULD NOT CONSULT WITH HIM.) HE SAID HE WOULD  
QUERY MOSCOW FOR INSTRUCTIONS. STRELTSOV ASKED IF ANY FINNISH  
AUTHORITIES, EITHER IN HELSINKI OR WASHINGTON HAD BEEN  
INFORMED OF THE PROPOSED TALKS AND WAS ADVISED THAT WE  
HAD NOT DONE SO IN HELSINKI AND WOULD ASK THE DEPART-  
MENT'S GUIDANCE ON THIS QUESTION. STRELTSOV ALSO ASKED  
WHO WOULD LEAD THE U.S. DELEGATION. HE READILY AGREED  
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TO THE CONCEPT OF ALTERNATING THE MEETINGS BETWEEN  
U.S. AND SOVIET FACILITIES.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS RESERVED 16 ROOMS AT THE INTERCON-  
TINENTAL HOTEL (ASSUMING THE NEED FOR A CONTROL ROOM)  
FROM MAY 3 TO MAY 9. WE WOULD PROPOSE USING THE  
CHANCERY CONFERENCE ROOM, IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE

MAIN CHANCERY ENTRANCE, AS A SITE FOR THE TALKS. THIS IS THE SAME ROOM IN WHICH THE FIRST SALT TALKS WERE HELD AND HAS RECENTLY BEEN REFURBISHED.

4. FURTHER ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO KNOW IN DUE COURSE WHAT THE DELEGATION ENVISAGES FOR OFFICE REQUIREMENTS AND AUTOMOBILE USE. AS WE HAVE ONLY ONE RATHER SMALL ROOM PRESENTLY UNOCCUPIED IN EITHER THE CHANCERY OR CHANCERY ANNEX, WE WOULD NEED SOME LEAD TIME TO MAKE SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DELEGATION. THE SAME HOLDS FOR CAR RENTAL NEEDS. WE ASSUME, OF COURSE, THAT INTERPRETERS WILL ACCOMPANY THE DELEGATION, BUT ANY INSTRUCTIONS ON REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL INTERPRETING EQUIPMENT WILL BE USEFUL.

5. OF MORE IMMEDIATE INTEREST IS THE QUESTION OF THE DEPARTMENT' WISHES FOR ADVISING FINNISH AUTHORITIES, AND CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE.  
RIDGWAY

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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